PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Nobuyuki ISHIWATA et al.

Serial No. 09/204,222 GROUP 2754

Filed December 3, 1998

MAGNETO-RESISTANCE EFFECT TYPE COMPOSITE HEAD AND PRODUCTION METHOD THEREOF

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FURTHER SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In compliance with Rules 1.97 and 1.98, and in fulfillment of the duty of disclosure under Rule 1.56, the accompanying documents, copies of which are attached to this statement, are made of record on the enclosed sheet.

A concise explanation of the relevance of these items is that these references were cited by the Japanese Patent Office in the corresponding Japanese application Serial No. 9-335501, filed December 5, 1997. A copy of the Japanese Official Action in which they were cited is attached hereto, with what is believed to be the pertinent portion enclosed in a wavy line. An English translation of the enclosed portion is also attached hereto.

Under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart

foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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ISHIWATA et al.-US Pat. Appl. 09/204,222
Ref. NE063-US

Record (See the Reference Citation List to obtain the citation)

Claims 1-13
Citation 1

Remarks:

The priority date for the subject application is October 24, 1997.

Reason 2

The present application, because of the following points contained in the Scope of Patent Claims, does not satisfy the stipulations of Patent Law Article 36 Item 6 No. 2.

Record

In Claims 9-13, in the latter part there is the statement "... of the compund head... "; however, the extent of the compound head is unclear.

(The applicant, in the Opinion document of June 4, 1999, the invention of the construction method recorded in Claims 9-13 asserts the essence that it is an invention for constructing the head recorded in Claims 1-8. However, this assertion does not correspond to that which is recorded in the Claims.)

The extent of "insulation film ... which covers the TMR element" in the notation in Claim 9 is unclear.

How to replicate and obtain the insulation film which covers the TMR element in the center region is unclear.

Reason 3

The present application, because of the following points, does not satisfy the stipulations of Article 37 of the Patent Law.

Remarks

The problems which the invention relating to Claims 9-13 attempts to overcome clearly differ from the problems which the invention relating to Claims 1-8 attempts to overcome.

In addition, although there are recorded items which are common to the former and the latter, they are not recognized as being primary elements.

Reference Citation List

1. Japanese Laid Open Patent Application Hei 10-289020
(Japanese Laid Open Patent Application Hei 11-213351)

- Examined Technical Field: IPC 6th Edition
G11B5/39
DB Name

Documents of the Prior Art

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application Hei 9-288807
Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application Hei 7-262520

IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, Vol. 40, No. 4, April 19, 1997, page 97/98 "SPIN VALVE READ HEAD WITH Fe/Al203/Fe/NiFe TUNNELING JUNCTION"

The record of the examination results relating to documents of the prior art does not constitute the grounds for rejection.